

TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS

2 Cor 4:7-12

2 Cor 4:7 *This treasure:* Wealth; Deposit. Light given by Holy Spirit

In earthen vessels: Clay pots. Containers made out of common ordinary dirt.

Nothing in our being that adds anything to beauty of treasure inside our vessels.

Value not in type of vessels but in what contained.

Vessels of clay fashioned by the potter. Isa 64:8 Rom 9:21 Jer 18:4

Excellency: supereminence; pre-eminence-abundance

Power: force, miraculous power, ability, abundance, might, strength, mighty

may be of God, and not of us. treasure contained in very cheap and fragile container, our bodies. 2 Chr 20:12 Psa 127:1 Jer 10:23 *John* 3:27 John 15:5 2 Cor 3:5 1 Chr 29:12 Job 26:12

1. God made us this way so use us for His Glory

Understand who we are and who He is. Psa 139:13-16

2. We must be fit for use.

Clean, pure, holy, sanctified. 2 Tim 2:20-21

Wiersbe: *We are vessels so that God might use us. We are earthen vessels so that we might depend on God's power and not our own.*

3. We must focus on the treasure and not on the vessel.

1 Tim 1:11

God is glorified through weak vessels.

J. Hudson Taylor, *All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for god because they reckoned on Him being with them.*

In order for us to be at place where useable God has to put us through crucible of suffering.

Wiersbe: *Suffering reveals not only the weakness of man but also the glory of God.*

I See Myself

One day I looked at myself.

At the self that Christ can see;

I saw the person I am today

and the one I ought to be.

*I saw how little I really pray.
How little I really do;
I saw the influence of my life-
How little of it was true!*

*I saw the bundle of faults and fears
I ought to lay on the shelf;
I had given a little bit to God,
But I hadn't but I hadn't given myself.*

*I came from seeing myself.
With the mind made up to be
The sort of person that Christ can use
With a heart He may always see.*

2 Cor 4:8 *Troubled:* Afflicted, hard pressed; backed into corner

not distressed: cramped, crushed, broken, with uncertainty or doubt;

not in despair; Don't give up or quit; utterly at a loss; to lose all hope

2 Cor 4:9 *Persecuted* To be hunted down; pursued; hounded;

not forsaken: left behind, deserted; abandoned to enemy,

Cast down Smitten to ground. Never to rise again; depressed

not destroyed: Struck down but not struck out; perish, marred, completely ruined; demolished.

How Paul deal with problems/afflictions?

1. Had purpose in life.

2 Cor 4:10 *The test of a true ministry is not stars, but scars.*

Gal 6:17 1 Cor 15:30 Rom 8:36 Rom 6:6 Gal 2:20 Col 2:20

that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. Our bodies are constantly facing the threat of death just like Jesus.

2 Cor 4:11 *for Jesus' sake:* living under sentence & threat of death on account of our loyalty to Jesus.

that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

The resurrection life of Jesus will be made openly obvious, clearly apparent
mortal: liable to die; human; earthly

2 Cor 4:12 Because of our testimony for Christ ... brought to real life in Christ.

2. Lived life in relation to future.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 Problems now facing far outweighed with eternal glory.

3. Lived life under constant influence of Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:16

So What?

1. Realize purpose in life – 4:11
2. Live in light of eternal glory. 4:18
3. Live constantly yielded to Holy Spirit 4:16